

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS**

**AMENDMENT DATE:** Original  
**POSITION:** Oppose

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 154  
**AUTHOR:** G. Cedillo  
**RELATED BILLS:** AB 338; AB 1341

**BILL SUMMARY: Workers' Compensation: Temporary Disability**

This bill would exempt certain volunteer and paid law enforcement and firefighting employees from the two-year limit on the payment of temporary disability under the existing workers' compensation law.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

The proposed exemption to the two-year limit on the payment of temporary disability will result in increased cost to the local government employing agency or the state for those employees defined in statute as law enforcement officers or firefighters with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. While the cost of the exemption is not known, it could be million of dollars.

The existing two-year limit provided a system-wide savings and has helped injured workers to return to work faster.

**COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance (Finance) is opposed to this bill because it would create an inequity in the provision of workers' compensation based solely on job classification.

Proponents of the bill indicate that peace officers and firefighters have a higher likelihood to be injured. Finance is not able to equate a higher likelihood of injury to a need for exemption from the two-year limit on workers' compensation.

Sponsors of this bill include, but are not limited to: the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, California Fraternal Order Police, and California State Firefighters' Association.

Opponents of this bill include, but are not limited to: California Association of Joint Powers Authorities, League of California Cities, and Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2006-2007	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	Code
9210/LocGovtFin	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary				-----	0001
9901/Var Depts	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary				-----	0001

Analyst/Principal (0243) K. Shelton	Date	Program Budget Manager Todd Jerue	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

<b>BILL ANALYSIS</b>	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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